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THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS TURN 'WOTAN SWITCH,' MENACING FOE'S LINE

Trap to Derail British Drive Changed Into Lane that Makes the Great Push Much Easier for the Allies.

(By International News Service.)
London, May 7.—To the Australians fell the honor today of "out-Hindenburging Hindenburg."
They took hold of one end of the "Wotan switch" of the old Hindenburg line and pushed it more than a mile to the east toward the "tracks" of the new Hindenburg line. They thus turned the switch that had been built by the Teutons to derail the British push into one which will make the going all the easier.
But the way it was done was not as simple as it is to describe the results. Blood flowed in streams. The outskirts of two hamlets, just the tiniest dots on the map, were the scenes of carnage such as had not been seen since Verdun.
At dawn the Australians stormed forward to close their ring around one of these villages, Bullecourt. Clear through it ran the front trench of the Wotan line, backed by two formidable support trenches.
By noon they had carried the battle into the heart of this miniature fortress. At sundown it was a graveyard of thousands; and across the carpet of dead the battle still raged, a myriad bayonets glittering in the departing light of day.
The Teutons still held a desperate grip upon the major part of the village, but yard by yard Sir Douglas Haig's men pushed on. The fall of all of Bullecourt to the British seemed a matter of hours.

"Switching the Switch."
Meanwhile the Australians were busy "switching the switch." A few miles northeastward of Bullecourt lies the village of Rencourt. The same kind of nut-cracker movement, Hindenburg's own favorite strategy, was being executed here. From three sides, west, south and east, the Australians pressed forward. Bombs, bayonets and machine gun bullets and grenades held no terrors for them. On and on they came, while over their heads sizzled a hail of shells from the British barrage fire into the Teuton second and third lines, nipping in the bud all German attempts to send reinforcements into the hard-pressed first line trenches.
More than a mile was gained, and at nightfall Rencourt, like Bullecourt, had become virtually untenable. The wanted "switchpoint" of the old Hindenburg line and the Wotan position had been wiped off the map, and now the British are well on the way toward turning the whole switch and tackling the new Hindenburg front.
Up to this evening more than a hundred prisoners had been taken from the British line to the cages behind the front. But success on the western front is no longer measured by prisoners. The toll of dead is a safer, if more gruesome, criterion.

Take 29,000 Prisoners.
Nevertheless France was cheered to unbounded jubilation today when the Paris war office announced that since April 16 the French forces have taken 29,000 prisoners. Of this total, more than 6,200 have been taken in the last four days' fighting alone.
Four fresh German divisions—30,000 men—were identified northeast of Soissons, where the Teutons throughout last night and today launched embittered, though vain, counter-attacks. Paris reports officially.
The French, says the statement, "victoriously resisted the most furious assaults and maintained their positions everywhere. The Germans were suffering large losses in these engagements."
The German war office officially described the battles, both on the Anglo-German and Franco-German fronts, as victories for the Teuton arms. It asserted the British bombardment caused fires in St. Quentin and new damage to the cathedral.
French attacks north of the Aisne and in the Champagne were repulsed, with heavy losses and in some sectors the Germans even forced the poilus to draw back.

ROOT MISSION LEAVES SOON

Will Cross Pacific and Spend Week or More in Japan.

A ship has been secured for the Root mission to Russia, and the party is expected to depart within the next week. An early announcement of its personnel will be forthcoming, it was indicated in official circles yesterday.
The mission will leave a Pacific coast port and cross the Pacific to Yokohama. It will remain for a week or more in Japan studying conditions of supply in that country, from which Russia has been receiving a large proportion of its artillery and ammunition stores. The party will then proceed to Vladivostok, eastern terminal of the Trans-Siberian Railway, where it will board a special train for the 10-day journey to Petrograd.
The time of the journey to the Russian capital will be approximately thirty-five days. It was considered best to take the "long route," however, rather than endeavor to run the submarine gantlet in both the Atlantic Ocean and North Sea in an attempt to reach Archangel.
Former Senator Root has been engaged for the last week in a study of the Russian situation as set forth in State Department dispatches, within the next few days he will have final conferences with President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing at which official instructions will be given him.
Dispatches from Ambassador Francis at Petrograd, to the State Department continued optimistic yesterday.
The last word from the envoy was to the effect that the provisional government is now more strongly entrenched than ever and is in a position to exercise complete control pending the election of a permanent government.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.
The Washington Herald is printing daily notices of births, marriages, and deaths among the people of Washington.
These notices appear today on page 4.

"UNCLE JOE" DOLLS UP FOR 81ST BIRTHDAY

"Don't Feel a — Bit Old," Chirps Ex-Speaker, Sporting Frock Coat.
Yesterday was Uncle Joe Cannon's 81st birthday.
The veteran legislator, hero of a hundred bloody battles in the halls of Congress, whose record in the House of Representatives extends back to the same year of grace as furnished William Jennings Bryan with his first "talking point"—1878—looked as chipper as a boy.
For the occasion he appeared yesterday enveloped in a monstrously lengthy frock coat of the "Prince Albert" type with pin stripe trousers and a boutonniere of violets and lilies of the valley.
He was congratulated by all hands and at 1 o'clock declared himself in adjournment while he traversed the length of the Capitol Building and lunched with a group of his cronies in the Senate.
Uncle Joe said he felt just as spry and as bright as any of the giddy senators and the youngsters in this fifties.
"A man's just as old as he feels," said Uncle Joe, "and I don't feel a bit old." The ex-Speaker qualified "bit" with a strong word.

Pacifist Who Fought Lodge Joins U. S. Army

Boston, May 7.—Alexander Bannwart, whose pacifist beliefs led him to engage in a fight with Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, in Washington, on April 2, today enlisted in the army.
Mr. Bannwart was prominent in the anti-war campaign. He was leading thirty Boston pacifists in Washington when his fight with Senator Lodge occurred. At that time he was quoted as having said "war is cowardly." He soon will carry a rifle.

"Sub" Menace to Be Doomed In Near Future by Fleet of U. S. Ships, Says Expert

Chairman William Denman, of the Federal Shipping Board, last night announced that the government's plan to combat Germany's submarine menace would undoubtedly be fulfilled within a short time by the construction of a very large number of both wooden and steel ships to run the blockade and carry supplies of all kinds to the allies.
"Within eighteen months an enormous number of wooden ships will have been placed in service," Mr. Denman said. "It is the hope, too, of the Shipping Board that within the same period the building of steel tonnage on a scale much larger than is now anticipated may be realized. We fully hope to construct a very large amount of steel tonnage."

May Solve U-Boat Problem At Council Parley Today

Out of a conference to be held in the office of Secretary of the Navy Daniels this morning may emerge a definite policy for combating the U-boat menace.
Attending the council, which will be presided over by Mr. Daniels, will be the entire Special Problems Committee of the Naval Consulting Board and every construction and strategy expert of the navy.
The conference is a result of telephonic conversations yesterday between Mr. Daniels and Lawrence Addicks, chairman of the Special Problems Committee. Mr. Addicks, following his long distance talk with the Secretary, took a train from his home at Elizabeth, N. J., and arrived in Washington yesterday afternoon.
Mr. Daniels also had two long-distance talks with William L. Saunders, in New York. Mr. Saunders is the man who started the country on Saturday by the announcement that a device to end the effectiveness of the submarine had been discovered. Efforts to determine the nature of this "submarine hound" brought forth later statements which indicated that Mr. Saunders had been over-optimistic. Other members of the Special Problems Committee who will attend today's conference are Messrs. Robbing Thayer and Sperry. They were expected to arrive in the capital early this morning.
It was learned definitely yesterday that the Special Problems Committee—which is composed of experts who took up the work of finding a means to check German submarine operations immediately upon our declaration of war against Germany—already has three "leads" which promise sensational results.

Embargo Debated Six Hours Behind Senate Closed Doors

The Senate sat throughout yesterday in executive session with the embargo provisions of the administration espionage bill under secret discussion.
Administration leaders under pressure from the White House produced documentary evidence in vast volume to prove to the satisfaction of the Senate, which is skeptical, just how necessary at this juncture is a complete authorization to the President to prescribe drastic limitations upon exports of the United States in order to meet deceptions and misstatements with regard to the ultimate destination of goods and materials of all sorts shipped to apparent neutral destination.
The effort of the administration leaders to force the exact phraseology desired by the administration into the bill resulted in numerous sharp clashes on the floor. It did, however, bear its first fruit when it was successfully in having the recent amendment of Senator Smith, of Georgia, reconsidered, and with the original proposition as presented by the bill once more under discussion, the Senate, after six hours of executive session, recessed until today.

The point is made by the administration, whose views are voiced on the floor by Senator Martin, of Virginia, that the

Daniels Renames Interned Raiders After Teuton Generals Who Aided the U. S.

The fellow who names Pullman cars has a rival.
The rival hangs his hat in the Navy Department, which is the last place anyone paging a sense of humor would think of going.
All of which reflections are called forth by the following announcement made public yesterday:
"The two interned German commerce raiders taken over by the United States government will bear the names of famous German generals who served under Washington in the Revolutionary War and aided the American colonies in winning their independence."
"The Secretary of the Navy announces that the Kronprinz Wilhelm, 14,908 gross tonnage, will be re-named the Baron von Steuben and the Prinz Eitel Friedrich will be re-named the Baron de Kalb."
By way of rubbing it in, the statement adds:
"As soon as the repairs are completed both vessels will be put into the United States service, so these big steamships which bore the flag of the German autocracy will soon bear the names of Germans who were leaders in the fight for liberty."

Joffre's Train Is Wrecked While Speeding Eastward; Envoys Escape Uninjured

(By International News Service.)
Arcolo, Ill., May 7.—The special train bearing Gen. Joffre, Vice Premier Viviani, and other members of the French mission eastward after a tour of the Middle West was wrecked in the middle of a corn field, midway between Arcolo and Filson, Ill., at 7:30 o'clock tonight. Several persons suffered slight bruises, but none of the members of the French party was injured.

Cause Not Known

The cause of the wreck is not yet known. Pennsylvania Railroad employees who made an examination of the wreck by lantern light expressed the opinion that the cars were derailed accidentally. Secret Service men, headed by William Nye, began immediate investigation.
The train was speeding eastward at the rate of forty miles an hour, after leaving Springfield, Ill., where Gen. Joffre and M. Viviani laid a wreath on the tomb of Abraham Lincoln late this afternoon.
Fifty miles northwest of Terre Haute, Ind., the tender of the second locomotive of a "double-header" suddenly left the rails. The baggage car, immediately behind, lunged over on its side and fell crosswise of the rails, a tangled mass.
The Pullman car, bearing newspaper correspondents, immediately behind the baggage car and left the rails, but did not turn over. The dining car, next behind, left the tracks with a crash, but the compartment car in which the Secret Service men were riding and the observation car, quartering Gen. Joffre and Vice Premier Viviani, remained on the rails.
Gen. Joffre and M. Viviani were at dinner when the crash came. The dishes

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

MUST HAVE RATE RAISE, SAY ROADS

Advance of 15% Needed to Prevent Financial Plight, I. C. C. Is Told.

An immediate increase in freight rates is necessary to save the American railroads from a most serious financial plight, representatives of the Eastern carriers told the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday.
Increased operating costs, the new wage scale demanded by the Adamson eight-hour law, and the high wages paid in industrial plants have added to the cost of railway operations and maintenance, while there has been no corresponding or proportionate advance in railway rates, until at the present time the railroad systems in America face a situation which is a menace to the transportation system of the nation.
These were the facts hammered home in the all day session, as the presidents and high officials of the big Eastern railway systems urged upon the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission the immediate granting of a 15 per cent increase in freight rates as a measure of relief.

Not Sudden Plight.

"In no sense can this plight be called a sudden or unexpected happening," F. L. Loe, president of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, said. "It is in part the consequence of forces which have been operating for at least three decades. So far from keeping pace with rising costs which have been in progress since 1888, the railroads have been required to reduce rates which had not been changed since the value of money was at its highest."
He then cited the reduction of anthracite rates in 1916, as a case in point.
"What we are confronting," he continued, "is something, which, unless in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE.

AGED WOMAN, STRUCK BY CAR, IS KILLED

Mrs. Horana Kuill, Failing to Hear Warning, Succumbs to Injuries.
Mrs. Horana Kuill, 75 years old, of 3015 Sixteenth street northeast, was struck by a car at Rhode Island avenue and Eighteenth street northeast yesterday afternoon at 4:45 o'clock and died in Emergency Hospital an hour later of a fractured skull, concussion of the brain and internal injuries.
Mrs. Kuill was accompanied by Mrs. J. D. Leonard, of 1607 Rhode Island avenue northeast, at the time of the accident. The motorman of the approaching car evidently thought they heard his going, and when he saw their danger it was too late to stop. An inquest will be held today. Motorman George J. Steele, of 1709 Fifth street northwest, and Conductor W. A. White, of 1100 Tenth street northwest, were summoned to appear.

Alienists Declare Vawter New Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Man with Dual Personality

(By CLEVE H. STAUFFER, Staff Correspondent.)
Christianburg, Va., May 7.—Alienists testifying this afternoon in the murder trial here declare that Prof. Charles E. Vawter, charged with killing Stockton Heth, Jr., had a dual personality, and that he was the personification of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, the famous creations of Robert Louis Stevenson.
Such deductions came as an unexpected sensation in one of the most exciting court battles to prove a man insane and insane enough to be held in custody, that perhaps was ever heard in this State.
The Commonwealth vigorously pressed its fight to show that Vawter was sane at the time he wrote the iniquitous letter in which he practically bargained the affections of his beautiful wife to Heth if he would pay a liquor bill which the defendant had contracted.
Dr. J. S. Dejeanette and Dr. J. C.

French War Commissioners Visit Capital Horse Show

Despite the threatening clouds and chill breezes, several hundred of Washington's horse lovers turned out yesterday to witness the opening day of the eighth annual National Capital Horse Show. While "society" did not turn out in full force, as it usually does on the day of the meeting, there was enough of the "old guard" present to fill most of the boxes.
From the standpoint of horsemanship, the present is the finest and largest show ever held here, and those who braved the cool breezes of yesterday were not disappointed. An attractive car of hunters, harness, saddle-roads, ponies, and other events offered a good afternoon's entertainment, and also brought into the ring some of the country's best-known horsemen and horsewomen.
In the middle of the afternoon a group of subordinate members of the French war commission now visiting the United States passed into the grounds. At the first sight of their uniforms the people in the stands rose en masse, and the band swung into the stirring strains of the "Marseillaise" at the end of which was cheering and handclapping. Also, when the band played the "Star Spangled Banner" the members of the commission stood at rigid attention with the eyes fixed on the flag.

Continued on page five.

Chaos Still Grips Russia; People Want General Peace

(By the International News Service.)
Petrograd, May 7.—The revolt-shaken Muscovite realm is still in the throes of seething internal chaos, but from one end to the other of the vast land the people's opposition against separate peace is manifest.
Today it is clear that last week's new outbreaks were due solely to the fact that Russia has not yet a central authority and that the cleavage between the workers' and soldiers' council and the provisional government is the result of the council's desire for a bargain with the central powers but of its firm resolution to make it known to the allies that Russia wants no conquest and no indemnity from this war. The council's aim is peace, but a general peace with all belligerents, renouncing annexation and all imperialistic ambitions.
Pessimists looked for new disorders today, for it is the day of the feast of St. George. The "Black Hundreds," several newspapers announce, have planned a demonstration in the capital.
Serge Sazonoff, former foreign minister, in a message to the English speaking people today, said:
"People cool, don't get excited; I'm sure the present Russian crisis will pass off of itself."
Meanwhile Gen. Gurko, commander on the Russian western front, continued to back his efforts to whip the Russian army back into its old fighting spirit. In an inspiring message to the troops he told them that every moment of lull in the east means an invaluable gain of time to the Germans; that the Germans, relying on the disorganization of the Russian army, already have transferred three divisions—60,000 men—including artillery and aircraft, to the west front. Inactivity in the east, he said, means added German strength against the allies in the west.
The general ordered his troops to stop the now common practice of fraternizing with the Teuton soldiers, since it enabled the latter to draw out Russian military secrets.
"Write the first pages of the history of new, free Russia with blood if need be," concluded his message.

No War Economy in China; Eighteen Courses on Menu

War economy means nothing in the life of Chinese officials, if a menu received here yesterday is any indication. A member of the British mission yesterday a menu card from a British diplomat in China for a dinner given by President Lian Huan on the day following his declaration of war against Germany.
It was a simple little affair for the foreign diplomats—there were only eighteen courses, and the delicacies included shark's fins and other edibles so rare that even Broadway doesn't have them.
Compartment Drawing-room Sleepers, Baltimore & Ohio to New York, open May 10. Leave Union Station, Washington, 12:25 a. m.—Adv.

10,000 RAIL WORKERS WILL GO TO FRANCE AS FIRST U. S. FORCE

Nine Regiments to Be Formed Under Officers from Engineers' Corps—Will Be Volunteer Army.

An expeditionary force of more than 10,000, composed entirely of railroad workers, under the leadership of officers of the United States Engineer Corps, will be the first to carry the Stars and Stripes overseas.
They will be sent to France to take over a large part of the work on the lines of communication behind the battle front. Orders to recruit the force immediately went forward from the War Department late yesterday.

WILL FORM NINE REGIMENTS.

Nine regiments will be formed, each officered by a colonel and adjutant from the Engineer Corps. The other officers will be selected from the ranks of the recruits. Not even the Officers' Reserve Corps will be called upon. The "First Ten Thousand," as they are already being called in the War Department, will be separate from any other unit or organization in the service. They will be secured entirely through volunteer methods and will not be a part of the Engineer Corps, even though flying the pennants of that organization.

Will Go to France.

As a separate corps of experts in one special line of work—railroad building and operating—they will be transported to France, probably in several of the great German ships seized by this government and now being repaired and made ready for use.
Although almost entirely a special body, the railroad corps will wear the United States uniform and fly the American flag. They go to France on a special mission, the railroads of that country are reported in poor condition as a result of overuse and the impossibility of securing sufficient men from the firing line for the plants to replace broken-down equipment.

The great railroad centers of the United States will be the recruiting points for the new force. Special offices have been established in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Philadelphia for the examination and enlistment of candidates.
The War Department yesterday afternoon issued the following statement relative to the new corps:
"The War Department has sent out orders for the raising, as rapidly as possible, of nine additional regiments of engineers who are destined to proceed to France at the earliest possible moment for work on the lines of communications.
Requests No Speculation.
"It is requested of the press that no speculation or rumors regarding this force be carried by it other than those given out by the War Department. All details with regard to the force will be released by the department as fast as compatible with the public interests.
"Two officers from the regular Corps of Engineers will be assigned to each regiment, but the names of these officers will not be announced at the present time."

The railroad corps, the same as that proposed by President Harding, president of the National Railroad, and a member of the councils of the National Council of Defense. Instead of sending the workers as merely a semi-governmental enterprise, however, it was decided to enlist them in the regular service.
On the same lines, an early announcement is expected of orders to recruit a similar force for use in Russia. The Russian railroads are declared to be in even a worse state than those in France, and the usefulness of the Russian army is tremendously hampered by lack of adequate communication and transportation facilities.

TOUR TO BOOM BONDS LIKELY

McAdoo May Make Stumping Trip in Interest of Liberty Loan.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo is considering making a stumping tour of the United States to encourage subscriptions to the Liberty Loan of 1917.
This was learned last night in official quarters, following the receipt of a large number of telegrams, principally from the Middle West, in which the Secretary was urged to make a series of personal appeals to the public to purchase America's first war bond issue.
The question has not been decided one way or the other, it was stated, and the probability is that it will be placed before President Wilson for his recommendation or disapproval.
Additional subscriptions were tabulated yesterday to the extent of \$10,000,000, bringing the total tabulated offerings of the Liberty Loan bonds up to \$400,000,000. Hundreds of letters and telegrams still remain unopened at the Treasury Department because of inadequate force to take care of the avalanche, and the contents of these, when tabulated, will put the

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

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